



THC (Marijuana)





Learning Objectives

- Identify from a list the different forms THC comes in.
- Describe how THC affects the human body.
- Identify from a list the different ways THC can be consumed.





What is THC?



- **Delta 9 - Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)** is the active ingredient in marijuana that causes users to feel *high*.
- **Marijuana** is a psychoactive or mind-altering drug.
- **Psychoactive drugs** produce a mind state similar to that of psychosis.





What is THC?



- Marijuana and THC are psychologically addictive.
- Marijuana and alcohol have come to be known as *gateway drugs*.
- Classified by the DEA as a Schedule I Controlled Substance.





Types of THC

1. Marijuana

2. Hash/Hashish

3. Hash Oil





How is THC Consumed?

- Smoking - Marijuana is absorbed through the capillaries in the lungs.
- Eaten / Drank - The chemicals in marijuana are absorbed into the small intestines.
- Mixed w/ Other Drugs - Marijuana is sometimes smoked with cocaine, crack, methamphetamine, PCP and other drugs sprinkled on.





Effects of THC

- Euphoria
- Short Term Memory Loss
- Increased Appetite
- Bloodshot Eyes
- Dry Mouth / Throat
- Increased Heart Rate
- Respiratory Depression
- Lowered Blood Pressure
- Loss of Coordination
- Paranoia
- Vivid Hallucinations
- Panic / Anxiety Attacks
- Psychosis
- Dependence





Effects of THC - Smoking

- Marijuana smoke contains more tar and cancer causing substances than tobacco smoke.
- Smoking marijuana can cause:
 - Bronchitis
 - Lung Cancer
 - Brain Damage
- Smoking marijuana causes some neurotransmitters to become inactive.





Effects of THC

Male Specific:

- Reduces the male hormone testosterone
- Can cause sex organs to not function properly.
- Greatly reduces sperm count

Female Specific:

- Testosterone levels increase
- Decreased sexual pleasure
- Disrupts menstrual cycles and ovulation





Effects of Withdrawal

While the effects of withdrawal have been described as mild and non life-threatening, they do include:

- **Severe anxiety**
- **Lack of pleasure**
- **Severe headaches**
- **Nausea**
- **Inability to sleep**





Testing for THC in the Army

- THC can be detected in urine for up to 30 days.
- The Army tests every specimen for THC
- The illegal use of THC or any drug goes against Soldiers Values and Warrior Pride.





Additional Information

**Additional information on THC
can be found by contacting the
Army Substance Abuse Program
or by visiting
www.acsap.army.mil.**





WARRIOR

- P**ersonal **Courage:** Possess the Personal Courage not to use drugs or abuse alcohol and to notify the Chain of Command of Soldiers that do.
- R**espect: Show your Respect to the Army, your unit, fellow Soldiers, and yourself by staying drug free and drinking responsibly.
- I**ntegrity: Stay true to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos by supporting the Army's drug and alcohol policies.
- D**uty: Do your duty as a Soldier and stay mentally and physically tough by not using drugs or abusing alcohol.
- E**xcellence: Exhibit honorable behavior on and off duty - don't be a substance abuser!